**Genipa americana**  
**Family:** Rubiaceae  
**Jagua**  
**Genipa**

**Other Common Names:** Jagua azul (Mexico), Irayol (Guatemala), Brir (Costa Rica), Angelina (Colombia), Caruto (Venezuela), Arasaloe, Tapoeripa (Surinam), Palo Colorado, Huitoc (Peru), Genipapeiro (Brazil).

**Distribution:** General distribution throughout tropical America, from the West Indies and Mexico to Argentina. Widely planted for its shade and fruit.

**The Tree:** Reaches a height of 70 ft; mostly 15 to 18 in. in diameter, but may reach 24 in.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood light yellowish brown sometimes with a slight pinkish- or purplish-blue overcast, merging gradually into the cream-colored sapwood. Luster medium; texture rather fine; grain straight to irregular; without distinctive odor or taste. Narrow bands of darker-colored wood produce an attractive striped figure.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.57; air-dry density 44 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (First set of data based on 2-cm standard; second set on 2-in. standard.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content</th>
<th>Bending strength (Psi)</th>
<th>Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)</th>
<th>Maximum crushing strength (Psi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green (14)</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>4,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% (24)</td>
<td>17,300</td>
<td>1,710</td>
<td>7,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 1,410 lb at 12% moisture content. Forest Products Laboratory toughness 184 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (5/8-in. specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** The wood air-seasons slowly but with only minor warping and virtually no surface checking. Data on dry kiln schedule not available. Shrinkage from green to ovendry: radial 4.6%; tangential 9.1%; volumetric 13.5%. Should stay in place well after manufacture.

**Working Properties:** Works easily and with excellent results, rates better than mahogany and teak. Glues satisfactorily and should finish without difficulty. Can be peeled to produce tight and smooth veneers.

**Durability:** Reported to be very susceptible to attack by dry-wood termites, pinhole borers, and decay fungi.
**Preservation:** Both heartwood and sapwood are reported to respond well to preservation treatments using either open-tank or pressure-vacuum systems.

**Uses:** Shoe lasts, tool handles, bent work, furniture and cabinet work, turnery, flooring, veneer, and plywood. Fruit is used to produce a sour refreshing drink, when immature used to prepare an indelible stain.

**Additional Reading:** (14), (24), (45), (56)
